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ABSTRACT

As part of a program of graduate follow-up studies, Macomb Community College (MCC), in Michigan, regularly conducts surveys of graduates or certificate earners 1, 3, and 5 years after their departure from the college. For the 3-year follow-up of the class of 1991-92, surveys were sent to all 2,997 alumni requesting information on characteristics, current employment/educational status, salaries, and perceptions of MCC. Study findings, based on responses from 1,172 former students (39.1%), included the following: (1) 43.9% of the respondents indicated that they had attended MCC to prepare for a job, 34.5% for transfer credit, and 15.5% to improve skills, while 57.3% indicated that they had achieved their educational objective; (2) 85% indicated that they were employed, with 43.3% employed in clerical/sales jobs, 18.8% in management/professional jobs, 10.1% in service jobs, and 7.8% in blue collar jobs; (3) 59.2% reported that their current positions were directly or closely related to their coursework; (4) 34.7% felt that their MCC education was very useful, 39.6% that it was somewhat useful, 9.6% not too useful, and 3.5% useless; (5) 34.1% were very satisfied with their jobs, 40.0% were satisfied, 9.4% were dissatisfied, and 2.8% were very dissatisfied; (6) for the 73% who provided salary data, the median hourly salary was $12.65; (7) 35.4% indicated that they had transferred to a four-year college; and (8) 11% stated that they had earned a bachelor's degree. Includes comparisons to findings from studies conducted the previous 5 years. The survey instrument is appended. (KP)

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ALUMNI SURVEY: GRADUATES OF 1991-1992 (GRAD 3)

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January 1995

JC 950 431

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary ii

Methodology 1

Results 1
- Response rate 1
- Gender and ethnicity 1
- Objective in attending MCC 2
- Completion of objective 3
- Employment 3
- Current job title 3
- Relationship of work and education 4
- Usefulness of MCC training 4
- Job satisfaction 5
- Salary 6
- Education 6
- Transfers 6
- Transfer majors 8
- Preparation for transfer 8
- Highest degree earned 8
- Highest degree planned 8
- Overall feeling about Macomb 9

List of Tables

1. Class size and response rate 1
2. Gender of Grad 3 respondents 2
3. Ethnicity of Grad 3 respondents 2
4. Primary objective in attending MCC 2
5. Current employment status 3
6. Employment by job titles 4
7. Relationship of work and MCC education 4
8. Usefulness of MCC education in day-to-day work 5
9. Job satisfaction 5
10. Salary data for Grad 3 respondents 6
11. Career benefit of education 6
12. Reported transfers to 4 year college/university 7

Appendix

A. Survey instrument 10

ALUMNI SURVEY: GRADUATES OF 1991-1992 (GRAD 3)
MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Each year, the Department of Research & Evaluation at Macomb Community College conducts follow-up surveys of the College graduates and certificate-holders at their first, third and fifth anniversaries. The results of the follow-up survey for the classes of 1991-1992, the third year after their completion, are presented in this report.

METHODOLOGY

Alumni of '91-'92 received a survey questionnaire early in October 1993. A second mailing to non-respondents was conducted about three weeks later. Letters from the project director accompanied each survey in both mailings. Returned surveys were coded by R&E staff under the guidance of the project director. The questionnaires were then sent to a contracted data-entry firm for processing to magnetic tape. Printouts were generated from the tape, and the project director perused these printouts and data from previous surveys to compile this report.

The Grad 3 survey form was revised this year to make it more compatible with the Grad 1. For the first time, we did not seek demographic data (gender, ethnicity) from the respondents but derived it from the MCC student database.

The questionnaire is attached as Appendix A. All tables contain 5-year data and are based on total number of respondents unless otherwise indicated.

RESULTS

Response rate - For the fourth year in a row, response to the Grad 3 has declined. It is, in fact, lower than it has been in several years. We have no explanation for the declining response rate.

TABLE 1. CLASS SIZE AND RESPONSE RATE

	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
# of students (unduplic)	2517	2723	2893	2923	2997
# of respondents	1062	1237	1284	1198	1172
Response rate	42.2%	45.4%	44.4%	41.0%	39.1%

Gender and ethnicity - Consistently, more females than males have responded to the alumni surveys. The ethnic composition of the student body at Macomb, and also its graduates, reflects minimal

variation (less than 1%) from one year to the next. This is also true for alumni survey responses.

Tables 2 and 3 present five-year histories based on gender and ethnicity for the Grad 3 surveys.

TABLE 2. GENDER OF GRAD 3 RESPONDENTS

	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
Female	58.9%	57.9%	56.9%	60.0%	59.0%
Male	39.9%	40.7%	42.0%	39.2%	38.9%
No answer	1.2%	1.4%	1.1%	0.8%	2.1%[1]

TABLE 3. ETHNICITY OF GRAD 3 RESPONDENTS

	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
Am Ind/AK Native	1.6%	0.7%	1.2%	1.0%	0.2%
Asian/Pac Isl	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.3	1.1
Black/not Hispanic	1.2	1.5	0.9	2.0	1.2
Hispanic	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.5
White/not Hispanic	94.3	95.3	94.2	93.0	89.3
No answer	1.5	1.1	2.2	1.8	9.0[1]

Objectives in attending MCC - Grad 3 respondents continue to indicate that their primary objective in attending MCC was job-related. After several years of decline among those who list a job-related objective (and corresponding increases in transfer objectives) the objective "prepare for a job" has increased 4 percentage points over last year while "transfer credit" as an objective declined 2.5 points. The number of respondents saying they had transferred was similar to those who listed a transfer objective. Transfers will be discussed more fully below. Table 4 sets forth the objective responses.

TABLE 4. PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IN ATTENDING MCC

Objective	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
Prepare for job	44.7%	42.8%	40.6%	39.2%	43.9%
Improve skills	16.9%	17.7%	16.4%	15.2%	15.5
Earn transfer credit	32.3	33.5	35.4	37.0	34.5
Personal interest	3.7	3.4	4.7	6.1	4.4
Other	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.2
No answer	1.1	0.9	1.6	1.0	.5

[1] In some cases, gender and/or ethnicity are not indicated in the student database. With the new practice of deriving selected demographics from the student database, we risk having a greater portion of no answers on these items.

Completion of objective - This particular question was new to the Grad 3 this year. More than half of the respondents (57.3%) said that their objective had been fully completed. Another third (36.9%) said their objective had been partly completed, while 4% reported they had not yet begun to fulfill their objective.

Employment - Specific data regarding employment of Grad 3 respondents are presented in Table 5. A new category was added this year (self employed) to keep information parallel with Grad 1 and Grad 5. This year, more respondents reported employment of some kind, and correspondingly, the number of those reporting full-time student status has declined from previous years. Similar findings occurred in the Grad 5 survey.

TABLE 5. CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Status	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
# Respondents	1062	1237	1284	1198	1172
Active military service	0.4%	0.9%	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%
Self employed	--	--	--	--	3.2%
Employed full time	69.8%	68.4%	67.1%	68.4%	69.3%
Employed part time	10.5	10.5	11.2	9.4	12.3
% employed	81.2	79.3	78.3	77.8	85.0
Unemployed seeking work	3.3%	4.8%	4.5%	3.4%	2.6%
Unemployed not seeking	2.3	2.5	3.3	2.8	3.8
% unemployed	5.6	7.3	7.8	6.2	6.4
Full-time student	11.7%	12.3%	11.7%	14.6%	7.9%
No answer	1.5%	1.1%	1.8%	1.2%	0.7%

Current job title - Information about job title enabled us to assess what occupational categories respondents were in. Four categories were established:

1. Management/professional
2. Clerical/sales/other white collar
3. Service worker
4. Blue collar

Those reporting full-time student status were tallied separately, as were homemakers. In Table 7, homemakers were combined with unemployed--not to denigrate homemakers as a group, but because they are unemployed outside the home. Slight discrepancies occurred between the figures for employment status and those for job title which may be attributed to coding error or data entry error. For example, 80% of respondents listed a job title; 85% said they were employed. Less than 4% said they were unemployed in the job title question but more than 6% said they were unemployed in the job status question.

TABLE 6. EMPLOYMENT BY JOB TITLES

Category	By Job Title
Cler/sales/other wc	43.3%
Mgt/professional	18.8
Service worker	10.1
Blue collar	7.8
% employed	80.0%
Unemployed	3.4
Homemakers	0.4
% unemployed	3.8
Full-time student	6.9
Other	2.8
No answer	6.5*

*includes don't know responses

Relationship of work and education - Nearly six out of 10 respondents to the Grad 3 indicated that their job was directly or closely related to their education at Macomb Community College. Five-year data are presented in Table 7.

TABLE 7. RELATIONSHIP OF WORK AND MCC EDUCATION

	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
Directly/closely related	86.5%	60.5%	58.1%	59.9%	59.2%
No/no answer[2]	13.5	39.5	41.9	27.4	28.6
No answer	--	--	--	12.7	12.2

Those who said their jobs were not related to their coursework at MCC gave the following reasons. (Multiple answers were allowed.)

Transferred to 4 year college/university	14.4%
MCC training didn't qualify me for job	3.8
Preferred work in another field	4.2
Found better paying job in another field	4.1
Couldn't find a job in my field	5.4
Other	5.4

Usefulness of MCC training - This question was changed from a 5-point to a 4-point scale this year. In addition, all respondents were asked to respond; in prior years, only those reporting employment were directed to answer this question. A 56% increase in response was noted because of the change in methodology.

Respondents say that their education is more than somewhat useful with a mean of 3.21. However, more respondents rated their education "somewhat useful" than rated it "very useful."

[2] These answers were combined for 87-88, 88-89, and 89-90.

Furthermore, the number indicating "dissatisfied" or "extremely dissatisfied" has more than doubled from last year. Removing a "neutral" category has made this a forced choice question, and undoubtedly contributed to the difference in mean score.

TABLE 8. USEFULNESS OF MCC EDUCATION IN DAY-TO-DAY WORK

	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
# Respondents	726	857	825	747	1172
% Respondents answering	68.4%	69.3%	64.3%	62.4%	87.5%
Mean	**4.24**	**4.25**	**4.28**	**4.28**	**3.21**
Very useful	33.0%	33.6%	31.7%	30.6%	34.7%
Somewhat useful	25.5	25.1	23.7	23.6	39.6
Neutral	5.6	6.9	6.0	5.2	----
Not too useful	1.7	1.8	1.1	1.1	9.6
Useless (Not at all useful)	2.6	1.9	1.8	1.8	3.5
No answer	31.6	30.7	35.7	37.6	12.5

Job satisfaction - More respondents report greater satisfaction with their jobs than previously. Like the usefulness scale discussed above, the job satisfaction scale was changed this year from 5-point to 4-point by removing the neutral category which forced choices. In addition, all respondents were allowed to reply to this question.

TABLE 9. JOB SATISFACTION

	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
# Respondents	723	854	817	748	856
% of Respondents ans'ing	68.1%	69.0%	63.6%	62.4%	73.0%
Mean	**4.00**	**4.00**	**4.02**	**4.08**	**3.22**
Very satisfied	20.5%	22.5%	21.0%	20.8%	34.1%
Satisfied	34.6	32.0	29.5	30.3	40.0
Neutral	7.8	8.7	8.0	7.9	----
Dissatisfied	2.9	4.0	3.4	2.4	9.4
Extremely dissatisfied	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.0	2.8
No answer	31.9	31.0	36.4	37.6	13.7

Salary - We suspect the differences in salary data are due to a change in data collection. Previously, respondents were asked to check salary ranges (as shown in Table 10) and only a portion of the respondents were directed to the salary question. On this survey, respondents were asked to provide their exact salary which was then converted to the lowest common denominator--an hourly rate, resulting in more precise data. For comparison, because previous data were reported in ranges, the data were then adjusted to ranges, using a basis of 40 hours.

First, 73% of the respondents provided salary data. This figure is almost 16 points higher than last year, and higher than the

portion reporting data in the last six years. Historically, on all alumni surveys, about 2/3 of respondents volunteer salary data. Secondly, the median hourly salary is $12.65 (slightly more than $2,000 per month or between $24,000 and $30,000 annually). The mode is $14.40 an hour with an hourly range of $2.13-$99.92 (self-reported). Percentages shown in Table 10 are based on percentage of respondents to this question.

TABLE 10. SALARY DATA FOR GRAD 3 RESPONDENTS

Range	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
# Respondents	653	764	723	682	850
% Respondents	61.5%	61.8%	56.3%	56.9%	72.5%
No answer	38.5	38.2	43.7	43.1	27.5
< $1,000 mo. (< $6.24 hr.)	4.0	3.8	3.3	2.8	8.2
$1,000-$1,499 ($6.25-$9.35)	10.7	11.2	9.4	9.4	17.8
$1,500-$1,999 ($9.36-$12.47)	14.0	11.6	11.2	10.6	20.4
$2,000-$2,499 ($12.48-$15.59)	11.5	13.1	11.9	10.0	19.1
$2,500-$2,999 ($15.60-$18.70)	8.9	8.0	8.1	7.1	13.8
$3,000-$3,499 ($18.71-$21.83)	4.9	5.6	4.5	6.4	9.9
$3,500-$3,999 ($21.84-$24.94)	2.1	3.4	3.1	4.3	5.5
$4,000 or more ($24.95+)	5.4	5.1	4.7	6.3	5.2

Education - Two-thirds of respondents to the Grad 3 indicate their education at MCC was directly beneficial to their career plans. Another 30% said it was indirectly helpful. Only 3% said their education at MCC was not beneficial to their career plans. Historical data are presented in Table 11. Nearly 99% of respondents reported on this question.

TABLE 11. CAREER BENEFIT OF EDUCATION

Rating	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
Direct benefit	53.3%	52.3%	49.4%	49.9%	65.7%
Indirect benefit	14.2	16.5	14.1	12.2	30.3
No benefit	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.3	2.9

Transfers - The number of respondents who said they transferred to a four-year college or university (N=415, 35.4%) is down 10 points from last year's Grad 3 Survey (45%) although 41.8% of respondents actually named a transfer institution. The top transfer institutions remain Wayne State with 156 reported transfers; Walsh College - 77; Oakland University - 55; Central Michigan University - 39; University of Detroit Mercy - 27; and Lawrence Technological University - 20. The rank order is slightly different for five-year totals. Complete information about transfers (sites, numbers, cumulative data) are presented in descending order by 5-year totals in Table 12 (next page). Concordia College, near Ann Arbor, was removed from this year's list since there have been no reported transfers in the last five years.

TABLE 12. REPORTED TRANSFERS TO 4 YEAR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Transfer Inst	Class of 87-88	Class of 88-89	Class of 89-90	Class of 90-91	Class of 91-92	TOTAL
Wayne State U	146	165	169	172	156	808
Walsh	88	108	119	92	77	484
Oakland U	74	85	59	68	55	341
Central MI U	26	34	47	40	39	186
Lawrence Tech	22	41	36	29	20	148
U of D-Mercy	17	15	19	20	27	98
UM-Dearborn	14	11	12	13	11	61
Eastern MI U	8	10	11	5	14	48
Mich State U	9	14	10	6	5	44
Northwood	8	8	9	12	7	44
Det Coll Bus	7	8	8	3	6	32
UM-Ann Arbor	2	8	5	1	10	26
Western MI U	6	6	4	4	4	24
Madonna	3	3	3	8	2	19
Siena Hts.	1	6	3	4	3	17
Ferris State	1	4	4	4	3	16
CCS	-	1	2	6	5	14
UM-Flint	4	4	1	2	2	13
MI Tech U	1	2	1	3	2	9
Saginaw Valley	2	1	2	1	1	7
Grand Valley	-	3	1	-	1	5
Northern MI U	-	1	2	2	-	5
Marygrove	-	1	-	1	1	3
Spring Arbor	-	-	-	2	-	2
Davenport	-	-	-	2	-	2
GMI	-	-	-	1	-	2
Lake Superior	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other coll/univ	24	38	27	25	36	150
TOTAL REPT TRANFER	**463**	**577**	**554**	**536**	**488**	**2609**
TOTAL RESPONDENTS	**1062**	**1237**	**1284**	**1198**	**1172**	**5953**
% REPT TRANSFER	**43.6%**	**46.6%**	**43.1%**	**44.7%**	**41.8%**	**43.8%**

Transfer majors - Beginning with this year's Grad 5 survey (the first in a new fiscal year), transfer majors were coded using the list of college majors and occupational choices developed by American College Testing (ACT). Use of this list will provide more consistency between surveys and, therefore, more precise data.

The top 10 transfer majors and the number of citations by this year's Grad 3 respondents follow.

1.	Business Administration/Management	63
2.	Accounting	34
3.	Business/Management (General)	33
4.	Banking & Finance	32
5.	Psychology	19
6.	Elementary Education	17
7.	Mechanical Engineering and Liberal/General Studies	16 each
8.	Marketing Management & Research	15
9.	Human Resources Development/Training and Nursing	13 each
10.	Computer Information Systems (General)	12

Slightly more than 20% of those reporting transfer are taking classes at MCC's University Center.

Preparation for transfer - On a 5 point scale (5=Excellent, 1=Inadequate) respondents gave MCC coursework a mean rating of 3.78 for preparing them to continue their education. The question of preparation for continued education is new to this year's survey.

Highest degree earned - Eleven percent of respondents indicated they have already earned a bachelor's degree with a few more reporting having earned a master's degree. More than 3/4 said their highest degree was an associate degree, representing an increase of nearly 30 points from last year.

Highest degree planned - However, 75% of all respondents stated that they planned to earn a higher degree: 46% (N=544) - bachelor degree; 22% (N=260) - master's degree; and 9% (N=101) - doctoral degree or professional degree. The number of those planning to earn a bachelor's degree is up considerably from last year as is the number of those planning to earn a master's degree.

Of those who gave an anticipated date by which they planned to earn their highest degree, 72% plan to do so before the year 2000. Several more reported dates this year (apparently having already completed the degree).

Overall feeling about Macomb - Grad 3 respondents reported an overall feeling slightly more than "satisfied" with their experiences at MCC with a mean of 3.36 out of a possible 4 points (very satisfied). This question was new to Grad 3 and Grad 5 alumni surveys this year in order to offer comparisons to the Grad 1 survey.

Macomb Community College

3-YEAR GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

Dept. of Research & Evaluation

Please check the appropriate box, or answer as required.

1. What was your primary objective in attending MCC? (Check only one box.)
   - ☐ 1 Improve existing job skills
   - ☐ 2 Prepare for a future job
   - ☐ 3 Earn university transfer credit
   - ☐ 4 Follow a personal interest
   - ☐ 5 None of the above

2. To what extent has this objective been completed?
   - ☐ 3 Fully completed
   - ☐ 2 Partially completed
   - ☐ 1 Not yet begun

3. What is your current employment status?
   - ☐ 1 On active military service ..... Go to Q. 4
   - ☐ 2 Self-employed ..... Go to Q. 5
   - ☐ 3 Employed full time ..... Go to Q. 4
   - ☐ 4 Employed part time ..... Go to Q. 4
   - ☐ 5 Unemployed, seeking work .... Go to Q. 10
   - ☐ 6 Unemployed, not seeking work ..... Go to Q. 10
   - ☐ 7 Full-time student at a 4-year college or university ..... Go to Q. 10

4. What is your current job title?

   _____

5. Is your position related to the courses you completed at MCC?
   - ☐ 1 Yes, directly or closely related ..... Go to Q. 7
   - ☐ 2 No ..... Go to Q. 6

6. If your occupation is/was not related to the courses you took at MCC, please check each reason below which applies.
   - ☐ 1 Transferred to a 4-year college or university
   - ☐ 2 MCC training didn't qualify me for a job in the field
   - ☐ 3 Preferred to work in another field
   - ☐ 4 Found better paying job in another field
   - ☐ 5 Could not find a job in my field
   - ☐ 6 Other_____
     Please describe

7. How useful in doing your day-to-day work is the training which you received at MCC?
   - ☐ 4 Very useful
   - ☐ 3 Somewhat useful
   - ☐ 2 Not too useful
   - ☐ 1 Not at all useful

8. How satisfied are/were you with your employment?
   - ☐ 4 Very satisfied
   - ☐ 3 Satisfied
   - ☐ 2 Dissatisfied
   - ☐ 1 Very dissatisfied

9. What is your current gross (before tax) salary not including overtime? (Please complete only one answer.)

1 Hourly	□□□.□□
2 Weekly	□□□□.□□
3 Every 2 weeks	□□□□.□□
4 Semi-monthly (e.g., 1st and 15th)	□□□□.□□
5 Monthly	□□□□□.□□
6 Yearly	□□□□□.□□

10. How do you rate the courses you took at MCC in terms of your career plans?
    - ☐ 3 Of direct benefit
    - ☐ 2 Of indirect benefit
    - ☐ 1 Of no benefit

11. Since you graduated from MCC, have you transferred to a 4-year college or university?
    - 1 Yes ..... Go to Q. 12
    - 2 No ..... Go to Q. 16

12. To which college or university did you transfer?

    _____

Please continue on the reverse side.

13. What is/was your undergraduate major at the college to which you transferred?

_____

14. Are you attending classes at the University Center at MCC?
☐ 1 Yes
☐ 2 No

15. How well did the courses which you completed at MCC prepare you for continuing your education?
☐ 5 Excellent in all areas
☐ 4 Good in all areas
☐ 3 Excellent/good in some areas only
☐ 2 Fair but all areas could have been better
☐ 1 Inadequate in all areas

16. In column A indicate the **highest degree you now hold** by circling the appropriate number, and in column B circle the appropriate number to indicate the **highest degree you plan to earn in the future.**

A	B	
1	1	Certificate
2	2	Associate (AA, AAS, etc.)
3	3	Bachelor (BA, BS, BSN, etc.)
4	5	Master (MA, MS, etc.)
5	5	Doctoral (PhD, EdD, etc.)
6	6	Professional (medicine, dentistry, law, divinity, etc.)
7	7	Other _____ Please identify

17. When do you anticipate completing your highest degree?

_____
Month Year

18. Which one of the following best describes your **overall feeling** about your experiences at MCC?
☐ 4 Very satisfied
☐ 3 Satisfied
☐ 2 Dissatisfied
☐ 1 Very dissatisfied

19. We would appreciate any comments regarding how the College could improve the courses you have completed or the services you have received.

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return it as soon as possible in the enclosed business reply envelope.

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